

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for repairing a defect in a soft tissue, comprising:

a first anchor for engaging a first surface of the soft tissue on a first side of the defect, the first anchor having a locking mechanism and a cannula defined therein, the cannula including a first lumen, the first anchor being shaped to seat below the first surface of the soft tissue;

a second anchor for engaging against a second side of the soft tissue on a second side of the defect; and

a suture adjustably connecting the second anchor to the first anchor, whereby tension on the suture pulls the second anchor toward the first anchor through a continuous range of distances, thereby pulling the first and second sides of the defect together to close the defect, and the locking mechanism locks the suture in place at any point along the suture,

wherein the second anchor has a hole and the suture connects the first anchor to the second anchor by passing through the first lumen of the cannula of the first anchor while traveling in a first direction, by passing through the hole of the second anchor, and by returning through the first lumen of the cannula of the first anchor while traveling in a second and opposite direction.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the soft tissue is a meniscus.

3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2 ~~wherein the first anchor is shaped to seat below the first surface of the meniscus~~; whereby proper seating of the device closes the defect without interfering with joint articulation.

4. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the locking mechanism is configured to grip and hold the suture.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A device for repairing a defect in a soft tissue, comprising:

a first anchor for engaging a first surface of the soft tissue on a first side of the defect, the first anchor having a locking mechanism and a cannula defined therein, the cannula including a first lumen, the first anchor being shaped to seat below the first surface of the soft tissue;

a second anchor for engaging against a second surface of the soft tissue on a second side of the defect; and

a suture adjustably connecting the second anchor to the first anchor;

wherein the second anchor has a hole therethrough and the suture connects the first anchor to the second anchor by passing through the first lumen of the cannula of the first anchor while traveling in a first direction, by passing through the hole of the second anchor, and by returning through the first lumen of the cannula of the first anchor while traveling in a second and opposite direction and wherein tension on the suture pulls the second anchor toward the first anchor, thereby pulling the first and second sides of the defect together to close the defect, and the locking mechanism locks the suture in place.

7. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the soft tissue is a meniscus.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 7 ~~wherein the first anchor is shaped to seat below the first surface of the meniscus,~~ whereby proper seating of the device closes the defect without interfering with joint articulation.

9. (Original) The device of claim 7 wherein the locking mechanism is configured to grip and hold the suture.

10. (Currently Amended) A device for repairing a defect in a soft tissue, the device comprising:

a first anchor for engaging a first surface of the soft tissue on a first side of the defect, the first anchor having a locking mechanism and a single lumen defined therethrough, the first anchor having a frustoconical end shaped to bury into and seat below the first surface of the soft tissue;

a second anchor for engaging a second surface of the soft tissue on a second side of the defect, the second anchor including at least one hole; and

a suture coupled to the first anchor and the second anchor, the suture passing through the lumen of the first anchor, passing through the at least one hole of the second anchor, and returning through the lumen of the first anchor, wherein tension on the suture pulls the second anchor toward the first anchor such that the first and second sides of the defect are pulled together and the locking mechanism locks the suture in place.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the soft tissue is a meniscus.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, ~~wherein the first anchor is shaped to seat below the first surface of the meniscus;~~ whereby proper seating of the device closes the defect without interfering with joint articulation.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to grip and hold the suture.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the suture forms a loop with respect to the first anchor.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the lumen of the first anchor includes a first opening defined in a first side of the first anchor and a second opening defined in a second side of the first anchor, the first opening being larger than the second opening.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the lumen of the first anchor is tapered.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the second anchor includes a first hole and a second hole, the suture passing through the first hole in a first direction and returning through the second hole in a direction opposite the first direction.